

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for starting an internal combustion engine comprising a plurality of cylinders, each cylinder having at least one inlet valve and one exhaust valve, the method comprising the steps of:

providing spark to ~~each of the cylinders during~~ a first cylinder undergoing a power stroke;

opening an inlet valve of ~~each of the first cylinders~~ cylinder during the undergoing the power stroke; and

opening an exhaust valve of ~~each of the~~ a second cylinder ~~cylinders during undergoing~~ a compression stroke.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of opening ~~an the~~ inlet valve comprises the step of opening ~~an the~~ inlet valve independently of engine timing.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of inhibiting fueling of ~~each of the first cylinders~~ cylinder when the inlet valve is opened.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of opening ~~an the~~ inlet valve and opening ~~an the~~ exhaust valve are independent of engine timing.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the steps of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve and opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve comprise the steps of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve and opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve electro-hydraulically or electromechanically.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the steps of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve and opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve comprise the steps of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve and opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve in response to an engine management system.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of inhibiting fueling of any cylinder undergoing a power stroke in response to the engine management system.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for starting an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders, each of the cylinders having an inlet valve and an exhaust valve, the method comprising the steps of:

providing spark to ~~the cylinders~~ a first cylinder during undergoing a power stroke;
opening an inlet valve of the first and a second cylinder ~~cylinders during undergoing a~~ the power stroke or and an intake stroke, respectively; and
opening an exhaust valve of ~~the cylinders~~ a third and a fourth cylinder undergoing a compression or and an exhaust stroke, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of inhibiting the injection of fuel during the step of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the steps of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve and opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve are continued until the internal combustion engine reaches a predetermined rotational speed.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of inhibiting the injection of fuel during the step of opening ~~an~~ the inlet valve.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of inhibiting is terminated when the internal combustion engine reaches the predetermined rotational speed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of terminating the step of opening of ~~an~~ the inlet valve of ~~any~~ the first cylinder undergoing a power stroke after fuel has been injected into the cylinder on an intake stroke.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of ~~off:]~~ terminating the step of opening ~~an~~ the exhaust valve of ~~any~~ the fourth cylinder undergoing ~~an~~ the exhaust stroke after fuel has been injected into the cylinder on an intake stroke.

17. (Previously Presented) An engine system comprising:
an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders;
a spark plug associated with each of the plurality of cylinders and that generates a spark to each of the plurality of cylinders during a power stroke;
at least one inlet valve associated with each of the plurality of cylinders; and
an engine management system that opens at least one inlet valve of each cylinder of the plurality of cylinders performing a power stroke and opens at least one exhaust valve of each cylinder of the plurality of cylinders undergoing a compression stroke.

18. (Previously Presented) The engine system of claim 17 wherein the engine management system further inhibits fuel delivery to the engine during opening of at least one inlet valve.